

Plight of North Caucasians

Special to The News

WASHINGTON—A Paterson, N.J., man who has been a leading advocate for the North Caucasian people here and abroad, was successful last week in having these freedom loving people recognized in the halls of Congress.

On the House side, Rep. Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.) and U.S. Senator James Buckley (R-N.Y.) responded to a request by Tcherim Soobzokov, president of the Committee for Liberation of North Caucasians, Inc., by bringing the story of these centuries' long fight for freedom to the attention of their colleagues joining in a salute to North Caucasian Independence Day May 11, and the week of May 9 to 15 as Independence Week.

Both Congressional representatives gave a capsule

history of the oppression of these people and their fierce struggle against enslavement over the centuries, by Czarist imperialism and later Russian Communism.

Numbers small, although small in numbers, they made their choice to die on their feet rather than to live in their knees.

Massacred, driven into exile, scattered throughout the Ottoman empire and after World War II making a third exodus to the western world with the help and leadership of the Committee for Liberation of North Caucasians, Inc., they still seek to achieve their dream of self-determination and independence for their nation as a Free State among the nations of the world. Addressing his colleagues on the House floor last Tuesday, said

he was doing so at the request of "the honorable Tcherim Soobzokov of my Congressional District." He expressed the hope that "through our mutual responsibilities, international understanding and agreement will be achieved that will eliminate the oppression of people and restore human rights and the rights of self-determination by the peoples of the so-called captive nations of the world."

Senator Buckley spoke on the floor of the Senate last Thursday. Earlier his aide, Eugene M. Iwanow, had briefed Soobzokov for bringing the plight of the North Caucasians to his attention. He said the senator was "very concerned about the violation of human rights and persecution taking place particularly among the non-Russian population of the

Byrne Salutes N. Caucasians In Proclamation

News-Trenton Bureau

TRENTON—Gov. Brendan Byrne recently proclaimed the month of May as North Caucasian Independence Month, saluting the people of North Caucasasia who have stood up for freedom against all odds and gave fierce resistance to their oppressors.

The governor acted in response to a delegation of North Caucasians, led by Tcherim Soobzokov of Paterson.

In his proclamation he noted that the people of North Caucasasia have been the victims of oppression by the Russian government since 1904, and for two brief years following their declaration of independence on May 11, 1918, following the Bolshevik revolution. They were conquered by the new Communist regime in 1920 and over the years since, have continued to resist oppression.

As a result, they were massacred, imprisoned or forced into exile. The governor said many of these brave people are living in New Jersey, and he saluted their courage and dedication to the goal of freedom.

Previously similar proclamations were issued by Rep. Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.) and Sen. James L. Buckley (R-N.Y.).

Soobzokov is president of the Committee for the Liberation of North Caucasasia Inc. PATRICK O'NEILL

Is Cited in Congress by Roe

U.S.S.R. (and) "supports the right of independence and national self-determination."

Congressional President Soobzokov had contacted the congressional representatives at the suggestion of Roland E. Elliott, director of correspondence for President

120 Club Pays Fine In Lieu of Suspension

The state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control has fined the 120 Sixteenth Avenue Corporation, trading as the 120 Club, of 120 16th Ave., \$300 in place of a 10 day license suspension for having violated state ABC rules by permitting the removal of an alcoholic beverage in an opened container from its licensed premises on March 11. The corporation pleaded no defense to the charge.

Ford, after he had requested the President to declare the "North Caucasian Independence Week." Elliott explained that the President had asked him to "thank you for your thoughtful letter" and appreciated the suggestion, but said that proclamations, designating special observances, were made only when authorized by congressional resolution.

Soobzokov, who emphasized North Caucasians' drive Europe between retreating and advancing Russian and German lines to the safety of the allied forces for two years during World War II, has continued to help other North Caucasians enter the U.S. and assist in their adjustment and settlement. His efforts stirred resentment in some circles and charges were made that he had entered the country illegally

and that he had been involved in Nazi war crimes. As a result, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service launched an investigation that was dropped and Soobzokov cleared last March.

Soobzokov has filed a \$5 million libel suit against the Office of Broadcasting System, which aired the charges. He is a former Paterson city official, a commissioner with the city's adjustment board and is a purchasing inspector with the Passaic County government.

CANINE CONTACTS

ATHENS, Ga. (UPI)—Dogs don't wear glasses, right? But surely they must have eye problems, too, which is why a professor of veterinary ophthalmology at the University of Georgia, has prescribed contact lenses for canines.

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